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Organization of the Danube River Police

1. The Danube River Police or River Guard [Folyamorseg] was organized after the end of World War I and was composed mostly of former members of the Austro-Hungarian Navy and the Royal Marines. Its original function was the supervision of all vessels, their passengers and cargo, transiting the Danube River in Hungarian territory. After 1930, the River Police was organized as a semi-military unit. The small patrol boats were replaced with larger river gunboats, armed with eight centimeter guns, and mine layer-mine sweeper vessels. These vessels in the event of war would mine the river and seal it off at the Yugoslavian and Austro-Czechoslovakian border. There were six gunboats, two mine layer-mine sweepers, and one supply ship on the Danube River, and one mine layer-mine sweeper and one supply ship on the Tisza River.
2. Two battalions of the River Police were stationed on the Danube and one on the Tisza River. Each battalion contained approximately 250 men and each was equipped with two artillery pieces and had a radio communications unit. Shore stations on the Danube were located at Budapest, Komaron, and Baja. Part of Battalion 1 was located at Budapest and part at Baja. Battalion 2 was located at Komaron.
3. There was an underground mine-storage facility located at Dunafoldvar on the Danube whose personnel numbered about 30-35 men. All other storage facilities were at Budapest. Battalion 3 was stationed at Szeged on the Tisza River. Headquarters of the River Guard was located in Budapest. It was staffed with 30-35 officers. The strength of the River Guard varied between 800 and 1,000 men.
4. The River Guard was headed by the Parancnok [Commander]. There were several sections under him, each headed by an Előadó [reporter] who was assisted by one or two other people. These sections were: organization [Szervezési], Personnel [Személyszaki], Medical [Orvosi], Finance [Hadműszaki], Ships [Hajózási], Armament [Fegyverzet], and Communications [Híradó]. Each Előadó

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was responsible to the Commander for matters under his jurisdiction. There was also a military judge [Hadbíró]

5. Prior to 1938 or 1939 the Guard was an independent unit responsible to the Ministry of Internal Affairs [Belügy Minisztérium]. The ranks and ratings were similar to the Navy but were not identical. After 1938 or 1939 the River Guard was integrated into the Hungarian Army. Its name was changed to the River Forces Command [Folyami Erők Parancsnokság] and it was responsible to the Ministry of Home Defense [Honvédelmi Minisztérium]. The organizational structure did not change, merely the subordination.

Organization and Terminology of the Hungarian Ministry of Home Defense [Honvédelmi Minisztérium] [1939-45]

6. The Ministry of Home Defense was divided into the following sections. Each section was autonomous and responsible to the Minister of Home Defense.
- (a) Organization Section [Szervezési Osztály]. This section has two sub-sections, the Presidium [Elnökség], the policy making group who also appointed military attaches and handled liaison matters between foreign military attaches and the Hungarian Army; and the Mobilization Group [Mozgósítási Osztály] which planned for the expansion of existing army units and the creation of new units in wartime.
 - (b) Material Section [Anyagi Osztály]. This section ordered all equipment and material used by the army.
 - (c) Personnel Section [Személyzeti Osztály]
 - (d) Training Section [Képzési Osztály]
 - (e) Infantry Section [Gyalogsági Osztály]
 - (f) Artillery Section [Tűzerégi Osztály]
 - (g) Communications Section [Híradó Osztály]
 - (h) Engineering or Technical Section [Műszaki Osztály]. This section had several sub-sections;
 - (1) Hidas which built temporary pontoon bridges,
 - (2) Hidasz which built permanent bridges, and
 - (3) Vastutes which operated military trains and repaired war damage to the right-of-way. There were two other sub-sections, one which was responsible for tanks, trucks, automobiles and miscellaneous vehicles, the other was responsible for chemical warfare.
 - (i) Cavalry Section [Lovassági Osztály]
 - (j) Welfare Section [Jóletti Osztály]
 - (k) Pension Section [Nyugdíjazási Osztály]
 - (l) Medical Section [Orvosi Osztály]
 - (m) Legal Section [Jogügyi Osztály]. This was the only section staffed with civilian personnel. It was responsible for handling all civil-military matters.
 - (n) Finance Section [Hádbiztossági Osztály]
 - (o) Military Justice Section [Hadbírói Osztály]
 - (p) Air Forces Command [Légi Erők Parancsnokság]
 - (q) River Forces Command [Folyami Erők Parancsnokság]

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